


The Utah Department of Workforce Services lists both machinists and welders as five-star occupations. This means that the occupations have the strongest employment outlook and high wages. These occupations are both great choices for individuals looking for long-term career opportunities.

Machinists require creative thinking and the ability to work independently. Individuals in this occupation often enjoy working with their hands and have an interest in how things work and computer technology. Machinists set up and operate a variety of machine tools to produce precision parts and instruments. Highly skilled machinists may work in a shop or in a precision clean-room environment. The occupation requires long-term on-the-job training and a high school diploma/GED. There are also many technical education programs to train individuals for a career in this field. In Utah, there are projected to be 190 openings or 2.8 percent growth per year, so job prospects are good. Machinists earn a median hourly wage of \$18.03 in Utah, which is \$1.32 higher than the national median.

The projected employment growth and high wages for machinists translate into great career opportunities.

Welding is also a five-star occupation in Utah. Welders use a variety of equipment to join metal or other types of composite material together. Many welders also enjoy working with their hands. Welders work in semi-hazardous conditions and are required to wear safety equipment such as protective eyewear, gloves and boots. In addition to welding skills, many employers prefer that welders have reading skills, and testing and manufacturing knowledge. There are few formal educational requirements for welders, but those interested in a career may want to take advantage of one of the many training programs that are available for welders.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) most welders work in the manufacturing industry. Although some manufacturing is moving overseas, many establishments are having a hard time finding qualified welders, especially within Utah's strong construction industry. Employment growth for welders is projected to be 28.5 percent over the next ten years, creating approximately 250 job openings per year. The median hourly pay for a welder in Utah is \$14.87.

Machinists and welders are both great careers with lots of opportunities. For anyone interested in these or other occupations please visit our website at jobs.utah.gov. 



Occupation	Inexperienced Wage	Median	Average	Middle Range
Machinist	\$11.90	\$18.03	\$17.83	\$14.11-\$21.96
Welder	\$11.32	\$14.87	\$15.34	\$12.37-\$17.82

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services

**Welders and
machinists
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